

CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWS

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- **CHALLENGED TO COMMUNICATE THE FAITH WITHOUT FEAR**
- **TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE SYNOD**
- **YOUTH SHOWCASE THEIR BUSINESS IDEAS**
- **POETRY CORNER**



CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWS



More than the expression of ideas

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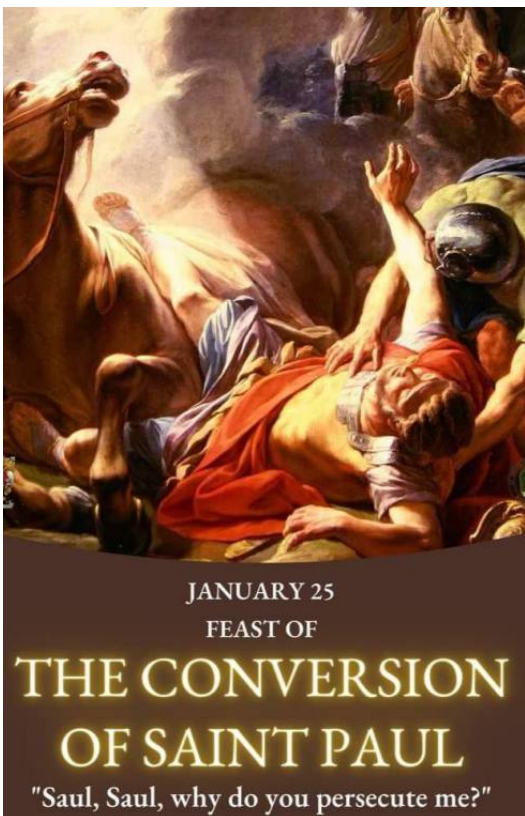
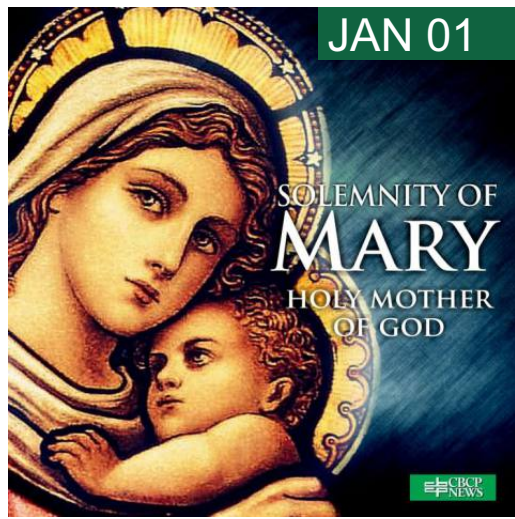
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FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK



Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present to you the first edition of this publication for the year. I hope you had a blessed and fulfilling festive season. We sincerely apologize for not publishing the magazine during the last four months of the previous year. Due to other pressing commitments, we were unable to allocate the necessary time to its production. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Life is a journey, and nothing illustrates this better than the Book of Exodus. The very meaning of the word Exodus is “the way out” or “the road out.” This book narrates the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land—a story of faith, perseverance, and hope in God’s promises.

Our journey in life follows a similar pattern: we are born, we grow, we face challenges, and we achieve various milestones. Ultimately, we transition from this earthly life into eternity, where we hope to behold the face of God.

We began this year with a reminder of this reality during the launch of the Jubilee Year 2025 in our various dioceses. The processions to the Holy Doors of our cathedrals symbolized our transition—a pilgrimage through life sustained by hope.

Speaking of hope, it is important to distinguish between hope and a wish. A wish is merely a desire for something, often something unattainable. Hope, on the other hand, is an expectation rooted in trust that something will happen.

Christian hope stands apart from secular hope. While secular hope is often uncertain and based on human expectations, Christian hope is a living, transformative force. Born in the resurrection of Christ and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christian hope assures us of the promise of eternal life. It is the certainty that heaven is real, that the Holy Spirit dwells within us, and that God is ever-present on our journey.

This same hope was the foundation of our processions to the Holy Doors. It is also the hope that guides the Church as she moves into the implementation phase of the Synod on Synodality.

In this issue, we feature a story about how the Church is faithfully and prayerfully embracing this phase while remaining loyal to God and His laws.

Even as our country faces political and economic turbulence, we hold onto hope—that integrity will prevail over selfishness and greed, that justice and peace will triumph, and that God’s providence will sustain us.

Our challenges are not insignificant. Corruption continues to erode public trust in governance. The unstable bank rate has created uncertainty, while goods and basic commodities are vanishing from supermarket shelves due to unfair competition from informal traders and regulatory inconsistencies regarding the exchange rate and the currency to be used for transactions. These difficulties can tempt us to despair, but Christian hope reminds us that transformation is possible when faith, integrity, and collective responsibility guide our actions.

This hope also re-energized Catholic communicators who returned from the Jubilee celebrations in Rome, renewed in their mission to spread the Gospel through media. They were reminded that their vocation is not merely to inform but to inspire and evangelize through the power of truthful and hope-filled storytelling. In this issue, we share their story and insights on how media can be a beacon of light in times of uncertainty.

Hope is the compass of our journey, guiding us forward with faith and trust in God’s promises. As we continue on this pilgrimage through life, may we be strengthened by Christian hope, uplifted by the stories of faith within our Church, and inspired to build a better society rooted in justice, peace, and love.

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Johnston Z. Mlambo
Editor

THE JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF COMMUNICATIONS BRINGS HOPE IN YOUNG FAITH COMMUNICATORS WHO GATHERED IN THE VATICAN

By Quegas Mutale in Rome, Italy



The young faith communicators who gathered in the Vatican shared deep messages expressing how the Jubilee of the World of Communications, which ran from January 24-26, 2025, helped them learn to restore hope in others.

The Jubilee of the World of Communications was held in the Vatican under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope."

The event saw young communicators from around the world sharing their experiences, exchanging knowledge, and interacting with media experts.

The Dicastery for Communication invited young communicators to the Vatican for the Jubilee of the World of Communications.

Among the participants was the fourth cohort of Faith Communicators in the Digital World (FC4), whom the Dicastery is training to be professional communicators.

Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa encouraged journalists to continue their work despite fears of persecution.

She challenged the young faith communicators to find ways to thrive in the fragile environments they work in.

Column McCann, a renowned author, remarked, "We must not have to like or love one another but understand one another."

He emphasized that young communicators should listen to one another through action or whatever means.

He also highlighted that storytelling is an art of connection and empathy.

Narrative 4 (N4) representatives expressed in their presentation that stories humanise, transform perceptions, build bridges, and drive change.

They emphasised that storytelling fosters understanding, which leads to action and brings change by stepping into the lives of others and building connections.

A striking part of the jubilee was the young faith communicators sharing their experiences.

"As a journalist, for the first time, I am encouraged to bring out stories. I hope that as I

go back home, I will be able to tell stories that bring hope and peace to society,” said Martha Mvula, a young journalist from Zambia.

One young communicator from Zambia shared, “My take-home point is that it is never a story if it does not bring change and hope.” Another participant commended the gathering, saying she gained hope from seeing young communicators come together, supporting each other, and encouraged them to inform and educate others.

“We have different opinions, but we must look at what brings us together, unites us, and strengthens our voice,” one participant said.

The young communicators encouraged each other to share stories that sow hope in people’s lives using media.

One participant cheered others by saying, “If you are here, you are part of the Church and a great family, given the gift of faith and communication. I encourage us not to be scared to share our faith as we are in a privileged position.”

Michael Maduekwe, a faith communicator from Nigeria, remarked that being part of the FC4 brought a sense of communion to work for God.

On the other hand, Zvaidaishe Makaya from Zimbabwe admired the art around the Vatican and highlighted that it inspires people to pray.

One female participant encouraged fellow young communicators to live for others to find fulfilment.

She added, “This platform has given me new energy to add to my work, to live more for others, and to tell their stories with empathy. That really gives me hope.”

Participants challenged each other to partake in different roles in the Church as united synodal people from different parts of the world.

Esther Losuba Tabu Natalino of South Sudan commented, “To be part of this wonderful jubilee is a blessing. I am willing to bring a lot of changes to my communities. Communicators are the sowers of hope.”

Echoing this, Joan April Chang from the Philippines hoped that participants of the Jubilee of the World of Communications would share their experiences back home.

One commentator noted that the presence of young faith communicators from different



Mass in remembrance of St Francis de Sales at John Lateran Basilica in Rome



Young faith communicators gathered in Rome



Young faith communicators gathered in Rome

countries signals that the Church is alive all over the world.

"Hope is the answer because God is hope," she said.

Different young communicators indicated how they were motivated to tell untold stories.

One priest who participated in the jubilee expressed that he takes responsibility for the stories he hears.

He advised journalists and communicators that the life stories of their neighbours should never be used to sell but rather be told as good news.

Participants shared that they learned from each other, with some testifying that being a faith communicator gives them the courage to speak up and pursue unity in their ambitions.

"This experience is a confirmation from the Holy Spirit that we are called to be Christians and pilgrims," one female participant remarked.

Susan Nzomo from Kenya emphasized participation, communion, and mission in everything done. "I am lucky to meet all this. Make sure that when you go back to your country, the communities participate because there is hope in synodality."

The prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, Dr. Paolo Ruffini, thanked young communicators for their commitment to working for the Church.

After other jubilee participants left, the FC4 participants remained in Rome for week-long activities.

On January 27, 2025, the FC4 participants met with Pope Francis and episcopal leaders of communication in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace.

They had the chance to talk and shake hands with the Holy Father.

On January 28, 2025, the young communicators toured the Vatican media offices before having a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the Necropolis, where they learned the history of the Church.

They also had a meeting with CUAMM Doctors with Africa organisational members, where they discussed communication issues in line with community programs in Africa.

The young communicators continued with activities in Rome until January 31, 2025.

During the Jubilee of the World of Communications, the young communicators engaged with media professionals who provided expert advice and encouraged them to tell stories of hope in difficult times.

Fr. Paul Samasumo of Vatican Media encouraged young professional communicators to contribute stories and other content to Vatican News for publication.

The Jubilee of the World of Communications was the first in a series of events happening in Rome this year.





THE BIBLE

The Centre and Compass of the Life of a Christian

By Fr. Johnston Mlambo

As we embark on the Jubilee Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope", the Church invites the faithful to reflect on how Scripture serves as both the centre and compass of our Christian lives.

Just as Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve to symbolise this sacred year, we are reminded that the Word of God opens the door to deeper faith, hope, and spiritual renewal.

The Bible's significance lies in its enduring revelation of God's will and plan for salvation. In the opening words of the Letter to the Hebrews, we read:

"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe" (Heb 1:1-3).

The Second Vatican Council affirms this in *Dei Verbum*, stating that Jesus himself is "both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation" (*Dei Verbum* 2).

This understanding anchors the Bible as a profound unveiling of God's nature and His relationship with humanity.

Revelation, the "unveiling" of God, takes on its fullest expression in Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God. The Scriptures, inspired by

the Holy Spirit, provide the faithful with teachings, correction, and guidance in righteousness (cf. 2 Tim 3:16). As St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

St. Jerome's legacy, celebrated annually on 30 September, continues to inspire Catholics. His translation of the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate) made Scripture accessible to the faithful, emphasising the transformative power of God's Word. Today, as the Church in Zimbabwe looks forward to the blessings of the Jubilee Year, we are reminded of the importance of immersing ourselves in Scripture to navigate life's journey with faith and hope.

The September Bible Month of 2024 saw vibrant celebrations across dioceses in Zimbabwe. These activities included Bible processions, displays of multilingual Bibles, and sermons centred on Scripture's role in the Christian journey.

For instance, at All Souls Parish in Hwange Diocese, Fr. Joshua Del Barrio encouraged parishioners to bring their Bibles to Mass on Bible Sunday. He explained, "We read the Bible so that we walk in the right path. The Word of God helps us move away from things that lead to sin." He also encouraged the establishment

of Bible corners in homes and the practice of Bible sharing in Small Christian Communities.

At St. John Mary Vianney Mission in Kariangwe, Dean Fr. Masimba Nyoni incorporated Bible lessons into the parish newsletter and hosted question-and-answer sessions to deepen scriptural understanding.

While the Bible Month has come and gone, its essence aligns with the Jubilee Year's theme of hope. Pope Francis frequently reminds us of the importance of carrying the Word of God in our daily lives, urging the faithful to keep a pocket Gospel or digital Bible handy for reflection and prayer.

The Church calls us not only to read Scripture but to embody its teachings. **Dei Verbum** teaches that **"the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully, and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of our salvation"** (Dei Verbum 11).

As the Jubilee Year unfolds, the Bible remains our compass, guiding us to live as witnesses of hope. This sacred year encourages the faithful to visit designated shrines, deepen their spiritual lives, and reflect on their pilgrimage of faith.

Practical Steps for Living the Word

1. **Daily Scripture Reading:** Dedicate time each day to read and meditate on the Bible, allowing the Word to shape your

thoughts and actions.

2. **Active Participation in Church Life:** Engage in Bible-sharing sessions, parish ministries, and liturgical celebrations to grow in communal faith.
3. **Support Evangelisation Efforts:** Share the message of hope and salvation with others, inspired by Scripture's call to proclaim the Good News.
4. **Pursue Holiness Through Sacraments:** Let the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation strengthen your commitment to God's Word.

The Jubilee Year 2025 is a time for renewal, reflection, and recommitment to the Word of God. By placing Scripture at the centre of our lives, we align ourselves with the hope and promise of salvation. Let this year be an opportunity to deepen our faith, inspired by the living Word and the ongoing presence of God in our lives.

As Pope Francis says, **"The good seed bears fruit!"** Let us embrace the Bible as our centre and compass, leading us forward in faith and hope.



CALLED TO BE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

BY FR KENNETH MAKAMURE

The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee year, something which happens every 25 years.

The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope" and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, ongoing effects of Covid-19 pandemic, climate change crisis and many other problems besetting humanity like political oppression, poverty, effects of corruption etc. What is a Jubilee?

It is a name given to a particular year. A time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, one another and creation.

Pope Francis has thus declared that in the Jubilee year 2025 we re-establish this relationship through intense prayer to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him.

The Jubilee logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth.

They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples.

The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. The cross is not only the sign of faith but also of hope that can never be abandoned because we are always in need of Hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters.

That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of Hope.

The motto of the Jubilee is "**Spes Non Confundit**" "Hope Does Not Disappoint."

In this Jubilee year we are called to keep the flame of Hope alive. How do we do that? Before I answer that question, I want to reflect precisely on hope.

Hope is the virtue by which we trust that the God in whom we believe will always love us and care for us, that He keeps His promises-not assuring us bliss, comfort, ease, perfection, fulfilment - but love, care, mercy and life. Emil Brunner a theologian once wrote "what oxygen is to the lungs such is hope for the meaning of life."

How do we get hope?

We don't get hope. We are given it.

Hope is a virtue given us by God at baptism, intensified by the other sacraments, fostered and protected through a strong interior life flowing from a vibrant faith and strengthened in daily perseverance in the tribulations and adversities life unfailingly brings.

How do we keep the fire of Hope burning?

The first way is trusting in a mysterious way that the Lord is at work in our life even if we don't see the effects. If we base our happiness on immediate tangible, dramatic results of our faith in God we will always be disappointed.

I remember some years ago I was asked by the St Joseph's guild members to give them a Lent retreat. The chairperson of the guild came with the request.

I should have known by his lack of enthusiasm that there was hardly going to be trouble filling even a seminar room. But I worked hours over three talks on characters from the stations of the cross. The big day came, two men showed up. Needless to say I hardly needed a microphone.

Two men!

I was crushed. Five years later I visited a woman from my parish who was in hospital helpless with diabetes. Her husband was so tender with her, caring for her not leaving her side. As he showed me to the door I told him how I admired his devotion to his wife.

He said "Oh Father I am just trying to be that Simon of Cyrene you talked about. I remember that Lenten retreat when you told us that just as Simon of Cyrene helped our Lord carry his cross, we do the same every time we help somebody carry theirs. I am just trying to help my wife carry hers".

I reflected on these words and realised that even though my retreat was poorly attended, it had an impact on someone's life. It takes genuine hope to trust that all what you do will have an impact one day.

Again it's worth the wait and hope helps us wait and patiently trust that seeds planted now will indeed bear fruit later.

The second way is to persevere. Remember St John of the Cross. His practice was to record what was happening in his prayer life each day in his journal.

For a long time in his life probably his dark night of the soul he recorded one word: nada, nothing. What went on in my prayer today? *Nada*.

Not one day but days, weeks and months, *nada*. But hope he kept, trusting that something would break.

And of course we know the rest of the story, he is one saint renowned for perseverance in prayer. Hope needs perseverance.

The third way is to have willpower.

Hopeful people want to succeed and therefore they typically possess the willpower to try.

Willpower is determination to go on. St Paul in his letter to the Philippians said "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

Before I used to view the low fuel light in my car as a warning. But during the days of fuel shortage my perspective changed. I began to see the low fuel warning light as a challenge: 'how far can I make?'

We all know the sinking sensation of reaching the dead end whether on the road, in our bank accounts, managing illness or death.

Paul motivates the Philippians not with a threat of judgment but with the astonishing reality that it is God himself at work within them.

This is the source of our willpower.

We know that God will continue to supply us with the capacity and desire and surely will empower us to soldier on in all the adversities and ramifications of life.

We are called to be Pilgrims of Hope?

Let us keep our hope alive through patient faith in God's results, perseverance and willpower.

Do we have patience, perseverance and willpower?

These are the ingredients we need as we journey together in hope amidst life struggles.

With these we can trust that God is listening even when there is no response; hope He is there when it seems He has abandoned us; trust that our efforts in prayer are producing some invisible fruits when all visible signs of success are not there; and hope that giving time to God is always more productive than getting some practical work accomplished by our own efforts.

I remember seeing Cardinal Law being interviewed on TV outside the White House where he had just met with President George Bush on averting what seemed to be a sure war with Iraq.

"Have you lost hope Cardinal?" one of the reporters shouted.

Cardinal Law responded "We don't lose hope. I am in the business of Hope. We are the ones who, in the boat at times about to capsized in the midst of the storm, keep on going even when it seems that Jesus is asleep".

Let us, relying on God's infinite promises hope for better life, for peace, for prosperity for our country, for pardon of our sins, for the help of God's grace and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



2025

CATHOLIC NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

By Benjamin Chaya

At the end of each year, we often reflect on the plans and resolutions we made at the beginning of the year. Individuals, organisations, and businesses alike assess their achievements and challenges, strategising for the future. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, it is essential to set resolutions that help us break away from sin and draw closer to God. Below are some resolutions Catholics can consider to deepen their faith and strengthen their relationship with God.



forgiveness and strength to overcome sin.

Participate in Eucharistic Adoration Outside of Mass, Eucharistic Adoration is one of the most significant forms of worship. Spending

time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament allows us to grow closer to Jesus. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Without Eucharistic Adoration, she would not have been able to do the work she did." Many parishes offer weekly or monthly Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, providing an opportunity for deep spiritual reflection.

Attend Mass Regularly

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest form of prayer in the Catholic Church. While every Catholic is obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, those seeking to grow in their love for God are encouraged to go beyond the minimum. The spiritual benefits of attending Mass are immense. Through the four ends of the Mass—adoration, thanksgiving, atonement, and petition—we encounter the real presence of Christ and experience spiritual renewal and nourishment.

Active Participation in Church Ministries

The Church encourages all Catholics to use their talents and spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ. Various liturgical ministries—such as altar serving, choir, lectorship, ushering, and catechesis—allow individuals to actively contribute to the Church's mission. Reflect on your God-given abilities and consider joining a ministry that aligns with your talents.

Go for Confession Regularly

Many Catholics find the Sacrament of Confession daunting, yet it is a profound source of sacramental grace. By examining the lives of saints, we see how many of them embraced regular confession as a means of growing in holiness. Saint Pope John Paul II, for instance, reportedly went to confession daily. Parishes typically offer confession before Mass, making it convenient for the faithful to receive

Pray Devotional Prayers

The Rosary, often called a summary of the Gospels, is one of the most beloved devotional prayers. By meditating on its mysteries, we journey through the lives of Jesus and Mary. Other devotions, such as the Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, also deepen our prayer life and connect us to Christ's suffering and mercy.

Go for Recollections and Retreats

Jesus often withdrew to quiet places for prayer and reflection, setting an example for us. Recollections and retreats offer moments to step away from the busyness of life and reconnect with God. Parishes, guilds, and

CATHOLIC NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

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religious associations regularly organise such events, while retreat centres like the Benedictine Monastery in Macheke provide a serene environment for individual or group spiritual renewal.

Read Spiritual Books

In an age dominated by social media, cultivating a reading habit can be spiritually enriching. Start with the Bible, reading it daily to reflect on God's Word. Pope Francis recommends carrying a copy of the Gospels for regular meditation. Additionally, reading the lives of saints and the Catechism of the Catholic Church can inspire and guide us in living out our faith.

Perform Works of Mercy

The Church calls on us to perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy. These include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and sheltering the homeless, as well as praying for the living and the dead, counselling the doubtful, and admonishing sinners. By engaging in these acts of charity, we bring Christ to others and live out our faith in action.

Pray with Your Family

"A family that prays together stays together," said Venerable Patrick Peyton. Family prayers,

including morning and evening devotions, foster unity and spiritual growth. The family Rosary, in particular, is highly recommended, with each member participating actively. During Lent, families can pray the Stations of the Cross together.

Go on Pilgrimages

Pilgrimages are journeys to sacred places undertaken as acts of devotion. They offer opportunities for spiritual rejuvenation and a renewed focus on God. Scripture recounts how the Holy Family went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Luke 2:41). Locally, Mutemwa in Zimbabwe is a popular pilgrimage site. Other notable destinations include the Ngome Shrine in South Africa, the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, and globally renowned sites like Lourdes, Fatima, and the Vatican.

Make God Central to Your Plans

As we make material plans for the new year, it is crucial to prioritise our spiritual growth. By committing to these resolutions, we can strengthen our faith, draw closer to God, and make 2025 a year of profound spiritual transformation.





CATHOLIC TEACHERS URGED TO SHAPE RESPONSIBLE, GOD-FEARING LEADERS OF TOMORROW

By Quegas Mutale, Binga

The vital role of teachers in shaping the moral and spiritual foundation of young people was the focus of a gathering of Catholic teachers in Binga, where they were challenged to nurture children into responsible and God-fearing individuals.

The celebration of World Teachers' Day on 6 October 2024 at All Souls Parish in Binga provided the perfect platform for this important reflection. Globally, World Teachers' Day is commemorated annually on 5 October, and the parish marked the occasion with a special Mass and discussions centred on the role of teachers in society.

Addressing the teachers during the celebration, Fr. Joshua Del Barrio, Judicial Vicar of Hwange Diocese and Priest in Charge at All Souls Parish, highlighted the profound influence teachers have on shaping society.

"Your role as educators goes beyond the classroom. You are co-creators with parents in forming future leaders who live by values of integrity, responsibility, and faith," Fr. Del Barrio said.

He drew inspiration from the Gospel passage where Jesus said, "Let the little children come to

me," urging teachers to welcome and guide children with love and compassion. "Teaching isn't just about imparting knowledge; it is a vocation of love, patience, and example," he added.

Fr. Del Barrio reminded teachers of the significant impact their actions and words have on children. "Children learn by imitation, and your conduct speaks louder than any lesson plan. Show them trustworthiness, prayerfulness, and compassion, so they too grow into responsible citizens and devout followers of Christ," he said.

He also cautioned against the dangers of negligence and negative influence, urging educators to instil values of honesty, kindness, and respect in their students.

Sr. Senzeni Muzamba of the Missionary Daughters of Calvary (CMFC), herself a teacher at Binga Primary School, spoke passionately about teaching as a calling to fulfil God's mission. "A good teacher inspires love for learning and motivates children to pursue their God-given passions," she said.

She called on parents to collaborate with teachers in building a solid moral foundation for

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CATHOLIC TEACHERS URGED TO SHAPE RESPONSIBLE, GOD-FEARING LEADERS OF TOMORROW

children. "Teachers and parents must work together to nurture the next generation. Without teachers, society cannot thrive," she emphasised.

Sr. Muzamba also encouraged young people to consider teaching as a vocation, describing it as a service that helps build communities and shape the future.

The gathering celebrated the immense contributions of teachers in guiding children not only academically but also spiritually and morally. The teachers were reminded of their power to inspire change and cultivate a prayerful and service-oriented mindset in their students.

"This world needs young people who are grounded in faith and equipped to face challenges with courage. As teachers, you have the unique privilege of being the first shapers of this generation," Fr. Del Barrio concluded.

As the new year unfolds, the reflections from this gathering stand as a timely reminder of the transformative role of educators in creating a society anchored in faith, values, and responsibility. The challenge now is for all stakeholders—teachers, parents, and the Church—to work together in raising children who will be the light of the future.

"Children learn by imitation, and your conduct speaks louder than any lesson plan. Show them trustworthiness, prayerfulness, and compassion, so they too grow into responsible citizens and devout followers of Christ,"



A cross section of teachers celebrating mass in Binga



Fr. Joshua Del Barrio blessing teachers in Binga (1)



Teachers in Binga pause for a photo after mass

EMPOWERING YOUTHS THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

A Call to Action

By Gabriel Isaac Kandewo



As we reflect on the challenges facing our youths today, it is clear that unemployment remains a significant obstacle to their economic empowerment. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2024) the total youth population is currently 4.5 million. Of these 2.2 million are not in employment, education or training. This staggering statistic underscores the need for innovative solutions with the church assisting by establishing vocational training at parishes and diocese levels to address this issue.

Vocational training and entrepreneurship skills offer a viable alternative for out-of-school youths who, due to various reasons such as lack of funds or not being academically gifted, could not proceed with their education. As Pope Francis emphasized in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, "work is a fundamental part of human identity" (LS, 128). Vocational training provides an opportunity for youths to acquire skills that enable them to earn an honest livelihood.

In Zimbabwe, the massive construction of homes presents numerous opportunities for youths to acquire vocational skills such as welding, wood technology, and building. As the Bible reminds us, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). By acquiring these skills, youths can contribute meaningfully to the development of our nation.

Moreover, baking and detergent making are other avenues that youths can explore. With the high demand for cakes and other baked products, youths can capitalize on this opportunity to earn a living. Similarly, detergent making offers a viable business venture that can provide employment and income

for youths.

In light of these opportunities, we recommend that Church parishes encourage out-of-school youths to consider taking up vocational training skills. Our Church facilities can be transformed into vocational training centres, providing a safe and supportive environment for youths to acquire skills.

The government's thrust to promote vocational training programs is commendable. The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation's initiatives to establish vocational training centres across the country are a step in the right direction.

In light of issues discussed above, the following are recommendations;

1. Church parishes should establish vocational training centres to provide skills training for out-of-school youths.
2. The Church should collaborate with the government and other stakeholders to promote vocational training programs.
3. Youths should be encouraged to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in areas such as baking and detergent making.
4. Church facilities should be utilized to provide a safe and supportive environment for vocational training.

Empowering youths through vocational training and entrepreneurship skills is a vital step towards addressing unemployment and promoting economic growth. As a Church, we have a moral obligation to support our youths in their quest for economic empowerment. By providing vocational training opportunities, we can help them break the cycle of poverty and unemployment, and build a brighter future for themselves and our nation. Let us join hands to empower our youths with the skills they need to succeed.

4.0 Biblical References:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Proverbs 22:29

Other references

Laudato Si' (Pope Francis' encyclical)

Gabriel Isaac Kandewo is a Peace and Governance practitioner with interest on Youth development and sustainability issues. He can be contacted at gkandewo@gmail.com.



THE CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE BEGINS THE PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

By Fr. Johnston Z. Mlambo



Archbishop Robert Ndlovu opening the Holy Door of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

Saturday, the 4th of January 2025, marked a significant day for the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe as all dioceses officially launched the Jubilee Year 2025 under the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."

This special year, inaugurated by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, calls on the faithful worldwide to embrace hope and journey together as a Church.

While many bishops around the globe celebrated the launch of the Jubilee Year on 29 December 2024 with Masses themed around hope, Zimbabwe chose the 4th of January as the designated day for the nationwide celebration. In the Archdiocese of Harare, the faithful gathered at the Dominican Convent High School to commence the Jubilee celebrations.

The programme began with a reflection on the

significance of a Jubilee Year, followed by a Gospel reading and the reading of selected sections from the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year by the Pastoral Coordinator, Fr. Gordon Matiyenga.

Leading the congregation in a solemn procession to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was Archbishop Robert Ndlovu. The procession, marked by hymns and prayers, symbolised the spiritual journey of the faithful as pilgrims of hope. Upon reaching the main door of the Cathedral, Archbishop Robert Ndlovu lifted the Cross, faced the people, and invited them to enter. Inside the Cathedral, the archbishop led in the Rite of the Memorial of Baptism.

In Bulawayo, celebrations began with adoration at St. Patrick's in Makokoba. Fr. James offered an insightful explanation of the Jubilee Year's meaning and significance.



Archbishop Alex Thomas leads the procession

Archbishop Alex Thomas then led the faithful in a symbolic pilgrimage, carrying the Cross from St. Patrick's to St. Mary's Basilica. Assisted by priests, the religious, and the laity, the archbishop brought the congregation together in a shared act of faith and devotion. At St. Mary's Basilica, Fr. Alfonse explained the significance of the Holy Door, particularly the act of knocking, which symbolises the prayers of the faithful seeking God's grace.

Archbishop Alex Thomas encouraged the faithful to embrace the Jubilee Year with commitment, declaring, 'There will be zero tolerance for laziness this Jubilee Year.' In the Diocese of Masvingo, Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa led the faithful in a pilgrimage from Ss. Peter and Paul Church to St. Mary's Cathedral



Fr Alfonse explaining the significance of the Holy Door



Bishop Mupandasekwa during Mass of the Launch of the Jubilee Year in Masvingo Diocese

The procession symbolised the journey of the Church in unity and hope, as envisioned by the Jubilee Year theme.

The Diocese of Chinhoyi had the honour of hosting the Apostolic Nuncio to Zimbabwe, Archbishop Janusz Stanisław Urbanczyk, who presided over the Jubilee Year launch. Proceedings began at the diocesan Curia Offices, where the Nuncio explained the theological and spiritual significance of the Jubilee Year. He then led the faithful in a pilgrimage to Corpus Christi Cathedral, where he ceremonially opened the cathedral doors.

The Papal Nuncio described the event as a 'historic religious occasion, highlighting the role of local faith communities.' He also urged the faithful to pray for the appointment of a new shepherd for the vacant diocese.

In Hwange, preparations for the Jubilee Year launch included a day of recollection for priests, facilitated by Bishop Raphael Ncube. The recollection, focused on the sacrament of confession, served as spiritual preparation for the celebrations. On the launch day, the faithful gathered at Holy Family Church for confessions before embarking on a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius of Loyola Cathedral, where the Holy Door was opened in a moving ceremony.

In Gweru, the faithful began their Jubilee celebrations at the Cecil John Rhodes Primary School gate, embarking on a 40-minute pilgrimage to St. Theresa's Cathedral. Bishop Rudolf Nyandoro, in his homily, exhorted the

congregation to 'journey together as pilgrims of hope.' He emphasised the importance of visiting designated pilgrimage sites within the deaneries and encouraged those who could afford it to consider travelling to Rome during this Jubilee Year.

The dioceses of Gokwe and Mutare followed a similar programme: the collectio (gathering at designated places), followed by the pilgrimage procession to the cathedral, and culminating with the entrance into the cathedral. This was in accordance with the rite for the opening of the Jubilee Year, as issued by the Dicastery for Evangelisation.

The Jubilee Year 2025 invites the faithful in Zimbabwe and around the world to reflect on the hope found in Christ and to journey together as a Church. Across the country, bishops, priests, religious, and lay faithful embraced this call with enthusiasm, marking the beginning of a year that promises spiritual renewal and deeper communion with God and one another.

This Holy Year is a reminder of the Church's role as a beacon of hope in a world yearning for peace and unity. As Zimbabwe embarks on this pilgrimage of hope, the faithful are encouraged to visit designated pilgrimage sites and engage in acts of faith, solidarity, and service, embodying the spirit of the Jubilee Year.

Some scenes from the launch in the Archdioceses of Harare and Bulawayo, as well as the Diocese of Masvingo.



Masvingo



Bulawayo







EMPANDENI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BECOMES BULLISH AS THE PROVINCIAL STARS

By: Fr. Bernard M. M. Nkomo

Empandeni High School; a single sex girls haven of hope, pride, empowerment and academic excellence is located 32km South of Plumtree Town.

This Roman Catholic School aims at producing an all-rounder mentally astute, physically fit, morally balanced and spiritually well-nourished girls within an environment that is conducive and highly sensitive to the peculiar needs of the girl child.

Boasting of 138 years of existence as part of Empandeni Mission, the school has produced numerous academics, professionals, spiritual leaders, and sporting icons who have made remarkable contributions globally.

The results speak for themselves! These achievements are not a product of chance but

the result of the dedicated efforts of the Responsible Authority (Archdiocese of Bulawayo), the teaching staff, parents/guardians, and the students themselves.

The school continues to assert its dominance at district, provincial, and national levels, striking a perfect balance between competition and collaboration among its learners. The school constantly exposes its students to the best educational opportunities and instills in them the belief that no mountain is insurmountable and no ocean unassailable.

Throughout the years, resilience, focus, determination and discipline has carved its

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character to produce the best girl a modern society deserves, aligning its curriculum approaches with the national vision. To this end, the Responsible Authority, the Head, The Deputy Head, Teaching staff, Ancillary staff and the SDC wish to congratulate its 2024 Ordinary

and Advanced level graduates for reaching yet another feat as the Ordinary level provincial title-holders and is not in the least envisaging to make this achievement a floating trophy. Indeed, it is worthwhile investing in the girl child.

O' LEVEL & A' LEVEL RESULTS – SOARING WITH THE EAGLES

ORDINARY LEVEL RESULTS											
ACADEMIC YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
PASSRATE	50.9%	73.0%	79.0%	75.0%	71.4%	87.1%	70.1%	75.8%	88.0%	93.7%	98.1%
ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS											
PASSRATE	95.30%	95.10%	98.50%	88.50%	93.40%	88.40%	85.10%	96.40%	96.70%	98.00%	100%

Over the past decade, Empandeni Girls High School has consistently recorded a pass rate well above the national average for both O' and A' Level examinations. These impressive results are a testament to the school's relentless pursuit of academic excellence.

The Head, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu, typically calm and composed, could not hide his joy and pride when the latest results were collected.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, you have done it; we have done it! You are such an amazing team. These results show that you believed in yourselves and believe in the ability of the girl child to excel beyond limitations! You make me so proud! You have flown our school flag to the skies. You make me emotional!" amidst heavy

applause and hugs amongst teachers.

Upon the release of the O' Level results, the school received an unexpected visit from Mr. Danisa Nkomo, the Mangwe District Schools Inspector (DSI), and his team. Teachers initially panicked, thinking it was a routine inspection, hurriedly organizing their documentation. However, after a brief meeting with the Head, all staff members were summoned to the staff room.

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The Head introduced the District Inspector with his usual soft and humble demeanor. " Ladies and gentlemen; I suppose the officials before you need no introduction. Kindly welcome our District Inspectorate today, they wish to talk to us briefly" he announced, stepping aside.

Mr. Nkomo took the podium and, after a suspenseful pause, instructed, "Ladies and Gentlemen may you clap hands for yourselves!" Members of staff obeyed the instruction albeit still caught up in trepidation. He interjected; "I think you deserve far much better than this, please clap hands for yourselves". This time around an emphatic round of applause began from the inspectorate team he had come with, being joined by the rest of the house, instantly loosening the charged atmosphere that had filled the room, refueling it with smiles animated with exhilaration. "You are an amazing lot, all of you. Thank you for the sterling performance in both the A' and O' Level Results. This could not have come about without you. We have come to say congratulations, you have made our district

proud, you have made Mat' South proud".

Later, the bell summoned the entire school to an assembly where the DSI praised the teaching and ancillary staff for their dedication. He urged students to respect and trust their teachers and to study with even greater discipline to maintain and surpass the current results.

The role of the Archdiocesan Education Board, led by Archbishop Alex Thomas, Education Secretary Mrs. Sheillar Kaseke, and Fr. Albert N. Msimanga (Priest in Charge of Empandeni Mission), deserves special commendation. Their unwavering support and oversight have ensured that Roman Catholic schools uphold high educational standards in a child-friendly and secure environment.

The Head of Empandeni Girls High School expressed profound gratitude to the Archdiocesan Education Board, emphasizing the school's commitment to equipping the girl child with the necessary tools to thrive in the modern era.

Empandeni Girls High School's journey is one of resilience, dedication, and excellence—a shining example of how investing in the girl child yields immeasurable returns.



MASVINGO DIOCESE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS



The Church in Zimbabwe is relatively young, with Christianity firmly taking root in the 19th century. Early attempts to evangelize Zimbabwe can be traced back to the 17th century when the Portuguese sought to evangelize the Mutapa State.

It is said that three sons of emperors from the Mutapa State were reportedly ordained as priests. However, after this initial effort, there was a significant break until Christianity was reintroduced in later centuries.

Despite these early attempts, there had been no clear historical record of the sons of the Mutapa Empire who became priests, except for the now-emerging information about Prince Miguel, who became a Dominican priest and ministered in Goa, where he died and was buried.

The first documented black priests in Zimbabwe were Frs. Simon Tsuru and Isidore Chikowore, ordained in 1947. Their ordination marked the beginning of a new era for the Church in Zimbabwe, paving the way for the development of a native clergy.

The ordination of native priests brought significant growth to the Church, enabling a deeper pastoral reach.

In 1973, Zimbabwe achieved another milestone with the ordination of its first Black auxiliary bishop, Patrick Chakaipa, who later became the Archbishop of Harare.

These developments laid the groundwork for a more self-sufficient and indigenous Church.

Among the dioceses in Zimbabwe, Masvingo and Gokwe stand out for beginning under native leadership. Masvingo Diocese was officially established on 1 April 1999, following a recommendation by the local Church to divide the vast Gweru Diocese.

This recommendation was approved by Rome in February 1999, and Bishop Michael Bhasera, who had previously founded Gokwe Diocese, was installed as its first bishop on 24 April 1999.

Spanning 70,000 square kilometers, the diocese covers all of Masvingo Province and part of Matabeleland South Province, serving a Catholic population of approximately 200,500 within a total population of 1.9 million.



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On 26 October 2024, the diocese celebrated its Silver Jubilee with a series of jubilant events that highlighted its spiritual and pastoral growth.

The celebrations spanned several days, beginning with an eight-day preparatory novena.

The festivities formally began on 24 October 2024, with a Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

The Mass was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio to Zimbabwe, Archbishop Janusz Urbańczyk, with His Lordship Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa and priests of the diocese as concelebrants.

The faithful gathered to thank God for His blessings and to seek continued guidance for the future.

Following the Mass, the congregation shared a meal, embracing the Shona proverb, "Ukama igasva hunozadziwa nekudya" (relationships are strengthened by sharing a meal).

Another key highlight of the celebrations was the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Cathedral on 25 October 2024, which was led, again, by the Papal Nuncio to Zimbabwe.

This moment of reflection allowed the faithful to deepen their union with the Lord and offer gratitude for the diocese's growth over the years.

After the adoration and benediction, there was a solemn procession from St. Mary's Cathedral to Gokomere Mission.

The procession symbolized a journey of faith, inspired by Christ, the itinerant preacher. For many, this procession was not just a physical act but a spiritual experience that strengthened their connection to God.

Following the procession was a night of prayer and spiritual talks.

The celebrations culminated on October 26 with the Jubilee Mass. In his homily, Bishop Mupandasekwa emphasized the importance of celebrating the diocese's achievements and thanking and praising God for such achievements.

Masvingo Diocese has witnessed remarkable growth over the past 25 years.

The number of diocesan priests has increased significantly, from 29 at its inception to 70 today, including two Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The diocese has also nurtured three bishops: Bishop Martin Munyanyi, Bishop Xavier Munyongani, and Bishop Rudolf Nyandoro.

The diocese's commitment to education is evident in its extensive network of institutions.

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Masvingo inherited schools such as Gokomere High School (established in 1940) and Silveira High School (1931) and established several new schools, including St. Joseph Beitbridge Primary School (2006) and Bondolfi Secondary School (2015).

The establishment of St. Kizito Minor Seminary in 2007 marked a significant step in fostering vocations.

Masvingo Diocese's healthcare services have also been pivotal.

Facilities such as Silveira Mission Hospital and Musiso Mission Hospital provide vital care to communities, with some institutions hosting nursing schools to train healthcare workers.

Caritas Masvingo, the diocese's relief and development arm, has implemented numerous programs addressing drought relief, child protection, youth empowerment, and livestock restocking.

These initiatives are critical in a region largely situated in farming Region Five, which experiences low rainfall and poor agricultural yields.

The faithful of Masvingo Diocese expressed pride in their progress but acknowledged ongoing challenges.

"As we celebrate 25 years, we see growth in faith," said Mr. Ushendibaba from Gutu.

Mrs. Matindike from Mutero Parish participated in the procession with great faith.

"I believed I would be healed, just as those whom Jesus instructed to show themselves to the priests were healed along the way.

"Though I couldn't complete the journey due to asthma, the bishop's words that those who had the will to walk had also completed the journey gave me great comfort," she shared.

Mrs. Chagonda from Chitsa Parish added, "In the past, we had to walk long distances to attend Mass. Now, many parishes have been established closer to us, making it easier to participate in Church activities."

Some, like Mr. Makatura from Chitsa, reflected on the challenges of sustaining the Church's growth. "We are grateful that we now have priests from our communities, but it is difficult for us to provide for them due to limited resources," he said.

Youth participation in Church activities remains low, a concern voiced by Fr. Kenneth Makamure. "The youth are increasingly distracted by technology and seek instant gratification. We must create engaging environments for them to reconnect with their faith," he said.

Another area of concern is catechesis. Fr. Makamure noted,

"In the past, catechesis took years, ensuring individuals were well-formed in their faith.

"Today, the process is often rushed, leading to superficial understanding." He also emphasized the need for more Church literature to inspire the faithful.

The Masvingo Diocese's 25th anniversary is a testament to the resilience and growth of the Church in Zimbabwe.

From its humble beginnings, the diocese has made significant strides in pastoral outreach, education, and spiritual formation.

As the faithful celebrate this milestone, they also look to the future with hope, striving to address challenges while building on the foundations laid by their predecessors.

The celebrations served as a reminder of the Church's mission to nurture faith, foster unity, and inspire future generations to continue the journey of faith.





CARITAS ZIMBABWE ADOPTS NEW STRATEGY

By SOCCOM Reporter

Caritas Zimbabwe, the humanitarian and development arm of the Catholic Church, launched its 2025–2030 Strategic Plan on the 9th of October 2024. The event, held under the theme of localisation and partnerships, marked a significant step toward empowering local communities and enhancing national leadership in humanitarian response.

The launch comes at a time when Caritas Zimbabwe faces dwindling funding, attributed in part to donor fatigue. This reality has prompted the organisation to prioritise sustainable strategies such as private sector engagement, localisation, and social enterprise.

Key Highlights of the Strategic Plan

In his presentation, Mr. Harrington Chuma, the National Coordinator of Caritas Zimbabwe, emphasised the importance of localisation frameworks that empower local stakeholders to lead humanitarian efforts. He highlighted

that these frameworks aim to transform the humanitarian system, making it more locally led and sustainable.

“Localisation is not just a shift in strategy; it is a moral imperative to ensure that those closest to the challenges take centre stage in crafting and implementing solutions,” said Mr. Chuma.

The strategic plan underscores collaboration with local communities and other commissions within the Church, including Education, Health, Family and Marriage, and the Pontifical Mission Society. These partnerships are intended to foster long-term solutions addressing education, water, sanitation, healthcare, agriculture, and micro-enterprise development.

Practical Insights and Recommendations

During the plenary discussion, stakeholders provided valuable insights. Mrs. Shiela Matsika of CABS Bank encouraged Caritas Zimbabwe to work with financial institutions to secure investments for land-based projects.

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“Our bank is ready to fund your initiatives provided you have valid papers for your land. We offer training in agriculture and business to build capacity in communities,” she noted.

Mr. Givemore Magumuye from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) suggested donor segmentation as a strategy to enhance fundraising. “By tailoring communication and engagement strategies for specific donor groups, we can build stronger relationships and increase donor loyalty,” said Mr. Magumuye.

Latest Developments Following the Strategic Plan Launch

In an interview with SOCCOM, Mr. Chuma provided updates on key developments following the launch:

1. **Unified Administration:** Starting in 2025, Caritas Zimbabwe will operate under a single administration. While long-term projects in dioceses will continue until their completion, all subsequent operations will align under centralised management to enhance efficiency and coherence.
2. **Fundraising Expansion:** The bishops have given Caritas Zimbabwe the green light to fundraise through individual donors, opening new avenues for resource mobilisation.
3. **Website Development:** Caritas Zimbabwe is currently working on a new website that will include a donation functionality, allowing individuals to support its initiatives more conveniently.
4. **Capacity Building:** Caritas Zimbabwe has partnered with international Caritas organisations to improve proposal writing. Unlike before, project proposals are now being co-developed with these partners, increasing the chances of success.
5. **Partnerships:** Caritas is forging

collaborations with like-minded organisations such as World Vision and WHH to expand its reach and impact.

Path Towards Localisation and Sustainability

Caritas Zimbabwe’s commitment to localisation was evident in its focus on utilising underutilised land owned by mission schools and dioceses. Discussions with the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops’ Conference aim to identify land that can be used for agricultural and development projects.

Lessons from successful initiatives like Stella Mundi, which focuses on production and harvesting, underscore the value of a learning-by-doing approach. This model is expected to strengthen capacity and create sustainable enterprises that will benefit local communities.

A Shift Towards Locally Led Response

As Zimbabwe grapples with socio-economic and humanitarian challenges, a shift toward genuinely locally led responses has become not only essential but inevitable. Making this transition requires collaboration at all levels—local, national, and international—and a commitment to empowering communities to lead the charge in addressing their own needs.

The strategic plan’s focus on localisation, private sector engagement, and partnerships lays the foundation for a more resilient, people-centred approach to humanitarian and development work. Caritas Zimbabwe’s forward-looking initiatives aim to ensure that communities are equipped to respond to challenges and seize opportunities for sustainable growth.

The launch of the Jubilee Year 2025 on the 4th of January, themed “Pilgrims of Hope,” aligns perfectly with the aspirations of Caritas Zimbabwe. As the Church embarks on a spiritual journey of hope, Caritas Zimbabwe’s strategic focus underscores the collective commitment to fostering hope, resilience, and transformation in the lives of the most vulnerable.



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YOUNG ADULTS OF HWANGE DIOCESE MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO MUTEMWA

By Quegas Mutale

The Catholic Young Adults Association of Binga Deanery, Hwange Diocese, was encouraged to publicly proclaim and live their Catholic faith during a pilgrimage to the Mutemwa Leprosy Catholic and Care Centre in Mutoko, Archdiocese of Harare, held from 16 to 20 October 2024.

The pilgrimage, centred on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," featured inspiring sermons and reflections aimed at deepening the faith of young Catholics.

Rev. Br. Colin Munyanyi (OFM) exhorted the young adults to boldly profess their faith in public.

"Jesus is looking for public proclamation. He asks people not to deny Him in public," he said, highlighting the challenges posed by societal trends that often promote superficial relevance over faith values.

Br. Munyanyi warned against seeking validation in the wrong places, cautioning that such pursuits could jeopardise one's spiritual journey. "We live in the world where people like relevance that is recognized by others. Sometimes it acts against our faith values", Br.

Munyanyi stressed.

He reminded the pilgrims that God takes joy when His people grow in faith.

Reflecting on the global context, he lamented the restrictions on public expressions of faith in some countries. Drawing from the **Religious Freedom Report (2023)** by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), which documented severe violations of religious freedom in 61 nations, Br. Munyanyi encouraged the young adults to stand firm in their faith despite challenges.

"The world we live in now no longer needs preachers but witnesses," Br. Munyanyi stressed, urging the young adults to embody the teachings of the Church through their actions. He called on them to take responsibility for expressing their knowledge of the Church and actively proclaiming their faith in public spheres.

Fr. Edmore Karuni, a priest at St. John Paul II Parish in Mutoko, encouraged the pilgrims to face life's challenges through prayer and reliance on sacramentals like the rosary. "Do not be ashamed of your faith," he said, emphasising the importance of embracing the beauty of the Catholic faith.

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He also urged the pilgrims to pray for God's intervention as they climbed Chigona Mountain, a significant pilgrimage site at Mutemwa.

Fr. Salicio Mukuwe, Chaplain at Mutemwa Leprosy Catholic and Care Centre, delivered a powerful message on forgiveness, repentance, and self-introspection. "All experiences in life should help us to understand the hand of God. He will make us win," he said.

He challenged the young adults to heal from their brokenness, forgive others, and seek forgiveness to align themselves with God's will. "If you have someone you don't talk to, go and greet them," he advised, encouraging reconciliation and unity within the Church and the community.

Fr. Mukuwe also appealed for support for priests, reminding the faithful of their role in providing for the basic needs of clergy serving in parishes.

The pilgrimage served as a moment of spiritual renewal and reflection for the young adults of Hwange Diocese. The messages of faith, hope, and service delivered by the clergy resonated deeply, aligning with the broader call of the Jubilee Year 2025 to live as "Pilgrims of Hope."

As the Church journeys through this special year, the lessons from Mutemwa remind all Catholics of the power of faith in transforming lives, fostering unity, and guiding the faithful toward God's eternal banquet.





THE CALL TO MUSICAL LEADERSHIP: Encouraging Catholic Men to Join Parish Choirs

By Gabriel Isaac Kandewo

Introduction

In many Catholic parishes, a notable disparity exists between the number of women and men participating in choir ministries. While women and youths enthusiastically take part, men often shy away. However, biblical teachings and papal encyclicals emphasise the significance of male leadership in worship.

The Bible provides a strong foundation for musical leadership. In Psalm 95:1-2, we are urged, "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day." This call to worship is not limited to any particular group; it is a universal invitation. Similarly, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 exhorts, "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." Men, as leaders in their families and communities, should model this courage and strength in worship.

Papal encyclicals also highlight the importance of sacred music in worship. Pope Pius X's "Tra le Sollecitudini" (1903) emphasizes, "The chant must be sacred, and therefore exclude all profane elements." Pope John Paul II's "Chirograph on Sacred Music" (2003) reinforces this, saying, "Sacred music, particularly when it is linked to liturgical action, is an integral part of the liturgy."

Catholic men have a vital role to play in choir ministry. Their participation provides a positive example for younger generations, enhances the diversity and richness of liturgical music, demonstrates leadership and commitment to faith, and fosters a sense of brotherhood and shared responsibility.

To make Mass more lively and engaging, men can also participate in traditional dances during

processions. As Psalm 150:4 says, "Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe." This practice expresses joy and gratitude to God, adds cultural depth to liturgical celebrations, involves the congregation in worship, and provides an opportunity for men to showcase their faith through movement.

By joining parish choirs and participating in liturgical dance, Catholic men can deepen their prayer life and become more active participants in the liturgy. As St. Augustine said, "He who sings prays twice." By heeding the call to musical leadership, Catholic men can fulfil their role as leaders in worship, inspiring others to join them in singing praises to God.

To address the disparity in choir participation and promote musical leadership among Catholic men, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Priest and music directors should actively encourage men to join parish choirs.
2. Men's groups and organizations should support and promote choir participation.
3. Parishes should offer music workshops and training specifically for men.
4. Incorporate traditional dances into liturgical celebrations, involving men and other members of the congregation.

References:

- Pope Pius X. (1903). Tra le Sollecitudini.
- Pope John Paul II. (2003). Chirograph on Sacred Music.
- The Holy Bible (Psalm 95:1-2, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

Gabriel Isaac Kandewo is a peace and governance practitioner with a keen interest in social justice issues. The views expressed are his own and do not represent the official stance of this publication.

THE SYNODAL JOURNEY

Insights from the Archbishop of Harare

By Fr. Johnston Z. Mlambo



In October 2021, Pope Francis launched the Synod on Synodality. From that time, the Church embarked on a three-year journey of synodal discernment. In Pope Francis' words, the entire Church has been "listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Churches at this time." The synodal journey began at the local Church level, where communities listened and gathered voices from their members and the broader society. These voices were then synthesized and summarized at the national level. Each nation's synthesis was presented at the continental level, culminating in the two sessions of the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023 and October 2024.

The Assembly of the Synod of Bishops collectively listened to the voices of the entire globe and discerned the Spirit's guidance for the Church's direction.

The synod focused on the theme "*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.*" Key elements included:

- **The Heart of Synodality:** Emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in calling the Church toward conversion and unity, rooted in a sacramental understanding of the People of God.
- **On the Boat, Together:** Highlights the need for renewed relationships within the Church, stressing harmony among clergy, laity, and families for a mission-oriented Church.
- **"Cast the Net":** Focuses on transforming Church processes, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making.
- **An Abundant Catch:** Encourages strengthening inter-church relations and ecumenical unity, fostering mutual exchange among diverse Church communities.
- **"I Send You Too":** Calls for forming a community of missionary disciples and providing spiritual formation for all baptized members.

The document contains several significant proposals:

- **Study Areas for Specialized Groups:** Encourages deeper exploration of ten critical areas, such as relations between Eastern and Latin Churches and adapting missions to the digital world.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Advocates for public reports and audits to build trust and ensure responsible resource management, emphasizing balanced gender representation in decision-making.
- **Empowering Episcopal Conferences:** Strengthening local doctrinal and pastoral care while maintaining Catholic unity.
- **Inclusivity for People with Disabilities:** Proposes an Ecclesial Observatory on Disability to foster active involvement of individuals with disabilities.
- **Strengthening Family Support:** Advocates for networks that support families in pastoral roles.
- **Promotion of Synodal Decision-Making:** Encourages synodal processes at all levels to make decision-making more inclusive and reflective of the broader Church community.

The document calls for spiritual, relational, and structural renewal to build a more inclusive and transparent Church.

Archbishop Robert Ndlovu, Archbishop of Harare, and Bishop Raphael Ncube of Hwange participated in the two sessions of the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. SOCCOM caught up with Archbishop Ndlovu after his return from the second session held from October 2 to October 27, 2024.

He emphasized that the focus is now on implementation.

"It was recommended that local contexts and cultures are essential for not only understanding and living the unity of the Church in diversity but also for fruitful implementation of the synod," said the archbishop.

He highlighted the importance of tracking progress:

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"Generally, we've done better than other continents. We already have pastoral councils and parish councils. Now we're struggling to set up finance councils," he noted.

Archbishop Ndlovu also pointed out the requirement for local Churches to audit their books.

"We are now required to submit our audited accounts to Rome every year. That's why those elected to finance councils are to have a course, and then the diocese would make regular follow-ups on them," he explained.

He mentioned plans to introduce software for financial management in parishes, particularly urban ones. For rural parishes, customized solutions would be explored.

"We can't say that because these people are poor, they cannot do anything. We have to find a way that suits them with the little knowledge and skills they have," he added.

The archbishop mentioned the formation of implementation committees and the importance of workshops for priests. He emphasized that everyone should read the final synod document and *Instrumentum Laboris* to ensure they are on the same page during workshops.

"We don't want talk shows. We should pick out things we want to concentrate on in our situation and prepare well before the workshop," he emphasized.

Archbishop Ndlovu highlighted that synodality is now a requirement, not an option.

"Parish councils and pastoral councils are now mandatory; they are no longer just recommendations. Each diocese and parish must have the three bodies: pastoral, parish,

and finance councils," he said.

He also spoke about the discussions at the synod regarding Eastern Churches and their liturgical rites as part of the broader Catholic Church.

"When they come to the West, they should be accorded pastoral care. Their liturgy is much richer than ours," he remarked.

In a significant departure from previous synods, Pope Francis adopted the final document of the Synod on Synodality, bypassing the traditional apostolic exhortation. This move might be taken by some to imply a shift in Church governance, adopting an inverted pyramid model of governance.

When asked if this implied a shift in Church governance, the archbishop dismissed the notion.

"There was voting paragraph by paragraph, so maybe the Pope felt there was nothing more to write," he said.

Archbishop Ndlovu said that it was stressed at the synod that consulting the laity in decision-making processes is essential.

"You cannot anymore make any decision without consulting the laity. Then your decision is credible because it is out of consultation," he said.

Archbishop Ndlovu reiterated that the synodal way of doing things is here to stay:

"The synodal way is no longer optional. Even parish councils should ensure that people in the margins have a voice in our structures. That came out very strongly,"



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PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH AND HERITAGE: Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community's Journey to Malawi

By Ashleigh Mushore and Fr. Johnston Mlambo



In October 2024, the Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community embarked on a transformative pilgrimage to Malawi, a journey that resonated deeply with their faith and cultural roots.

The trip, which ran from 18 to 21 October, was not just a physical journey but a profound spiritual and cultural homecoming.

It demonstrated the growth of the Church and the living reality of synodality—journeying together in unity and shared purpose.

The opening words of the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, issued at the conclusion of its second session in October 2024, echo the essence of this pilgrimage:

“Every new step in the life of the Church is a return to the source. It is a renewed experience of the disciples’ encounter with the Risen One in the Upper Room on Easter evening...”

For the Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community, this journey to Malawi was indeed a return to their source—a reconnection with their ancestral roots, faith traditions, and the larger body of the Church.

This pilgrimage exemplified the spirit of synodality, which emphasises communion, participation, and mission.

The relationship between Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Zambia is steeped in shared history, including the days of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

This historical bond has fostered cultural similarities and a shared worldview, making such exchanges significant for strengthening ties within the Church across borders.

The journey comes at a time when the Catholic Church in the sub-region is actively fostering closer ties among Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Zambia.

This was evident in the July 2024 conference held in Salima, Malawi, where bishops from the three countries convened for their second sub-regional consultative meeting themed “The Catholic Bishops of Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe Collaborating to Enhance Pastoral Unity, Gospel Proclamation, and Solidarity in the Sub-Region Amidst Shared Challenges.”

The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration in addressing shared pastoral and cultural challenges while promoting mutual growth.

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This vision of regional unity has been further reinforced by inter-parish exchange programs, such as the recent visit in June by some members of Holy Cross Mamba Parish of Monze Diocese in Zambia to All Souls Mission in Binga, Zimbabwe, reciprocating an earlier visit by All Souls Parish to Zambia last year.

These initiatives underscore the spirit of synodality—a journeying together in faith and mission.

The Zimbabwean Chewa community from the Archdiocese of Harare and the Diocese of Mutare joined their counterparts at Holy Ghost Parish, Ndirande, in the Archdiocese of Blantyre, Malawi.

The gathering, themed “**Lord, Teach Us to Pray**” (Luke 11:1), emphasised prayer as the cornerstone of spiritual growth and unity. It highlighted how diverse communities can come together, enriching each other’s faith through shared worship and cultural exchange.

The Malawian Church extended warm hospitality to their Zimbabwean guests, providing accommodation at the Nantipwili Pastoral Centre.

The Chewa Catholic Community from Zimbabwe reciprocated this generosity by

donating to the Jacaranda Orphanage Home and the Holy Ghost Parish Orphanage.

These acts of charity deepened the bond between the two communities, exemplifying the Gospel call to love and service.

Reflecting on their experience, Mr. Bhauleni, Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community, said:

“Returning to the land of our ancestors was deeply fulfilling. The warm welcome we received was a testament to the strong ties that bind us.

“When you return to where your roots lie, it feels as if everything falls into place—even the air you breathe feels different.”

For many participants, the trip was a personal journey of rediscovery. Mrs. Doka, from the Diocese of Mutare, shared her emotional connection to the pilgrimage:

“Visiting Malawi had always been my heart’s desire. My late father, who passed away in 2009, wished for me to visit our roots, even ensuring I had a passport in Grade 7. This trip fulfilled his dream and mine.”

She was moved by the hospitality of the Malawian people and the depth of their faith, adding:

“Everyone you meet in Malawi treats you as



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family. Their strong faith and sense of community are inspiring."

The Chairlady, Mrs. Guri, highlighted the inspiration behind the trip:

"Their passion for the Catholic faith is evident in everything they do. The dedication of the religious sisters caring for orphans left me convinced that as laypeople, we too can take a more active role in serving others."

The liturgical celebrations in Malawi left a lasting impression on the visitors. Millicent Ruzairo observed:

"The harmony in their singing and the participation in Mass were vibrant and uplifting. It's something we could improve upon here in Zimbabwe to enrich our liturgical experience."

She added:

"We met different people and learned so much from them. Their sense of community and faith was truly inspiring."

For Fr. Francis Kunaka, who played a pivotal role in organising the trip alongside Fr. Philip Matemba, the pilgrimage was about fostering connections:

"Most of the people in my parish in Tafara have roots in Malawi, and even in the neighbouring parish of Mabvuku, many share this Malawian ancestry.

"In the spirit of synodality, it was important for them to not only celebrate locally but also to connect with their origins," he said.

The trip was not without its challenges, including initial concerns about political tensions in Mozambique. However, the journey proceeded smoothly, underscoring the participants' determination and faith.

Beyond logistical hurdles, the pilgrimage demonstrated the resilience and growth of the Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community.

From the vibrant liturgy to the shared meals and moments of reflection, the journey exemplified the spirit of unity and synodality that Pope Francis envisions for the global Church.

As the group concluded their visit with a social outing to Lake Malawi, they left not only with cherished memories but also with a renewed sense of purpose and belonging.

The pilgrimage was a testament to how reconnecting with roots and fostering inter-community relationships can inspire spiritual and cultural growth.

The Zimbabwe Chewa Catholic Community's pilgrimage to Malawi was more than just a return to their ancestral homeland; it was a

journey of faith, solidarity, and shared purpose.

It demonstrated the beauty of synodality—journeying together as a Church family, united in diversity and mission.

As the Church continues to grow in Zimbabwe and across the region, such exchanges serve as powerful reminders of the universal call to communion and the transformative power of shared experiences in faith.

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HARARE ARCHDIOCESE YOUTH EMPOWERED AT BUSINESS HUB EVENT

By Fr. Johnston Mlambo



The youth of the Archdiocese of Harare hosted the much-anticipated Business and Innovation Hub at St. Canisius Parish in Marlborough today. Young entrepreneurs from across the Archdiocese proudly showcased their businesses and innovative ideas to invited guests and fellow participants.

The event carried the theme: **"Nurturing a Hopeful and Sustainable Generation."**

The guest of honour, Acting President Hon. Retired General Dr. Constantine Chiwenga, toured the exhibition stands alongside his wife, Colonel Miniyothabo Francisca Chiwenga. He engaged with the inspiring youth exhibitors, who enthusiastically presented their business ideas and projects.

Dignitaries in attendance included Hon. Charles Tavengwa, Minister of State for Provincial Affairs for Harare Province; Mrs. Marcia Nyanda, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Vice President; and Major-General Grey Mashava, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Vice President.

In his address, Acting President Chiwenga encouraged the youth to shun drug and substance

abuse, describing it as a serious challenge facing Zimbabwean society. He urged Catholic young innovators to take advantage of the 2025 national budget allocation of \$1 billion to youth ministry and encouraged them to participate in the Jubilee Year celebrations in Rome.

The Spiritual Director of Youth and Vocations in the Archdiocese of Harare, Fr. Ignatius Kudakwashe Mhepo, affirmed the Church's commitment to supporting youth development.

"I am sure, as young people, your conviction and desire is that, through the assistance of pertinent stakeholders, your communities may witness the true spirit of empowerment and journeying together in hope," said Fr. Mhepo. He reminded the youth that Pope Francis consistently encourages them to become **"Sowers of Hope."**

Tatenda Gift Maphosa, Chairperson of the Archdiocese of Harare Youth and Vocations, outlined the purpose and origins of the Business and Innovation Hub in his welcome remarks.

"The Catholic Youth Business and Innovation Hub is a platform aimed at empowering ambitious and aspirational Catholic young people (between the

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ages of 15 to 35) in spiritual, business, social, economic, and personal life," said Maphosa. "It provides a socio-economic and spiritual networking platform to learn and grow from experts, mentors, corporates, and other like-minded young people in a Catholic space and the country at large."

Maphosa detailed how the initiative was born out of a desire to address growing challenges among young people, including drug and substance abuse, mental health struggles, crime, unwanted pregnancies, and the lack of viable employment opportunities.

"To address this, the Archdiocesan Youth Board initiated this project to improve the socio-economic status of the youth, support youth-led businesses and projects, and provide mentorship and networking opportunities for the youth in the corporate world," he explained.

He further emphasized the initiative's execution through training, networking events, and engagements with corporates and stakeholders, offering valuable opportunities to the youth.

"The Hub is targeting to benefit young people, the communities they live in, all stakeholders involved, and the country. This platform aims to develop open-minded youths who are prayerful, patriotic, innovative, and self-sustainable through professional networking with experts, mentors, corporates, and government," Maphosa added.

He noted that the Hub's inaugural launch was on June 1, 2024, at Zim Gardens in Chisipite, establishing it as an annual event for the Archdiocese.

Sr. Kudzanayi Chidenga, Coordinator for Youth and Vocations in the Archdiocese of Harare, was impressed by this year's event.

"The event was very good—much better than we expected and better than last year's," she said.

When asked how this year's event surpassed the previous one, she explained:

"Last year, we had 14 exhibitors, but this time around, we had 28. You can see that the number of exhibitors doubled.

"Last year, only people from around Harare attended, but this time we even had participants from All Souls, Mutoko, and one from Mhondoro. That was impressive—it shows that the youth are now aware of the Business Hub.

"We also had more parents attending this year, which means the Business Hub concept is growing in terms of awareness and engagement." Despite the improvements, Sr. Chidenga lamented the low attendance by professionals and corporates.

"The idea of the Catholic Youth Business Hub is for the young to network with professionals in the Church, yet the professionals are not showing interest. Maybe we haven't marketed the event enough. We hope to do better next time," she remarked.

Sr. Chidenga challenged parents, guardians, and all adults to take an active interest in the challenges faced by the youth.

"We ought not to be passersby at the challenges our youth are facing. I always give the example of the priest and Levite who passed by the man attacked by robbers without assisting him in the parable of the Good Samaritan."

She also expressed her gratitude to those who assisted with preparations, participated during the event, and offered post-event support.

"I really appreciate those who helped us. Although they are still few, we are very grateful," she said.

The event highlighted the Archdiocese's unwavering commitment to empowering its youth and providing a platform for their growth, both spiritually and socio-economically. The Business and Innovation Hub stands as a testament to the Church's dedication to nurturing a generation of prayerful, patriotic, innovative, and self-sustainable young people.





CYNESA ZIMBABWE ENGAGES GWERU DIOCESE

By Tatenda Mqetu

Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa [CYNESA] Zimbabwe Chapter recently engaged youths in the Catholic Diocese of Gweru during the Diocesan Youth Congress held at Chikwingwizha Minor Seminary from the 13th to the 15th of December 2024 with the thrust of igniting the environmental conversation and networking.

Addressing congregants in attendance CYNESA Deputy Country Director Donald Dandadzi encouraged the youths to adopt the initiative of conserving the earth for sustainability.

"The environmental challenges we face today are urgent and undeniable, deforestation, water scarcity and rising temperatures are not just headlines; they are realities affecting our families, our livelihoods and our future," said Dandadzi.

"As young people we are called to rise and take responsibility, whilst as Catholics we are reminded that our faith is not just a Sunday obligation but a daily commitment to care for God's creation and to stand in solidarity with the poor who suffer most from environmental degradation" added Dandadzi

CYNESA Zimbabwe managed to identify focal point persons dotted around the Diocese for further penetration purposes as there is need to setup operations in parishes, schools, universities and communities for education, awareness, training and advocacy.

The network is a faith-based organization that seeks to ignite the environmental conversation in the community so as to attain environmental sustainability throughout the continent by offering a platform through which young people across Africa can offer responses to twin challenges of environmental degradation and climate change whilst paying attention to the most vulnerable communities.

CYNESA promotes environmental conservation and mitigates the impact of climate change through:

- Education and awareness creation through scriptures and Catholic social teachings.
- Networking and advocacy training by establishing and building relationships with like-minded partners whilst training young Catholics in advocacy on environmental sustainability.
- Encouraging and supporting concrete action plans at the local level by encouraging young people to act in their parishes, schools and within their youth movements by developing appropriate sustainable practices to conserve resources.

As youths being a member of CYNESA is about living our faith in action being part of a movement where your voice, your talents, your ideas can make a difference in turning the church into a beacon of hope and a model of sustainability.

POETRY AND DEVOTIONS CORNER

That! I Ought to Fear

By Fr. Johnston Mlambo

Fear is not of death.

No, fear is not of the monster who squeezes life out, tearing asunder matter from spirit.
 No, fear is not of the Goliath of demise.
 For the white lambs, straight to their dreamland go,
 There, the face of their beloved—selflessly sought throughout life—they behold.
 Their lifetime hopes and aspirations the blessed ones meet.
 So white and shining their fur,
 The light once dimly perceived now revealed in its fullness,
 transforming their being.
 The comfort erst looked forward to in self-denial there they experience and enjoy,
 A joy freely bestowed, for they embraced and lived in grace.
 In grace and truth they walked.

But fear is of death,

Yes, fear is of the behemoth of termination
 Who summons each one to his tribunal.
 There, pain becomes a blade of separation, sharper than mortal wounds.
 Loneliness presses hard, its weight unbearable,
 With darkness as company—unyielding, unbroken,
 And the desperate search for light proves futile.
 So fierce the yearning for peace and serenity,
 Yet none comes; the heart aches for joy but meets barren silence.

The doomed meet their fate:

The torment of eternal estrangement grips them.
 A deep sense of regret lingers—
 Regret for wasted life,
 Remorse for graces resisted,
 But alas, remorse too late.

There, reality strikes with merciless force—

Splendour, riches, and pleasures fade like a mirage.
 Screams and pleas for mercy strike stone walls,
 The soul plunges into deeper sorrow.

There, divine mercy, once offered, is unreachable—

A light once near but now forever out of reach.
 For those who spurned grace, regret bears no redemption.
 Only the weight of what could have been remains.

POETRY AND DEVOTIONS CORNER Cont...

HOPE

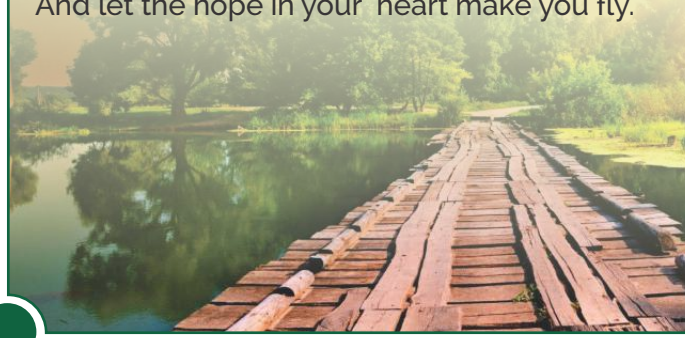
By Lorna Chosani

Sometimes the world can be a hopeless place
 Keep the light of hope burning in your heart
 Create your own hope
 The world will become a better place.

A grateful heart is a beautiful heart
 Be grateful
 Be peaceful
 Be beautiful
 Always be hopeful.

There is a reason why the heart is important in the year of
 "Pilgrims Of Hope".
 It is the generator of the hope that leads to growth
 Life is full of pain
 And it is also full of joy.

Both go hand in hand
 Don't let the pain, keep you down
 Be optimistic
 And let the hope in your heart make you fly.



THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
 may the *faith* you have given us
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
 and the flame of *charity* enkindled
 in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
 reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
 into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
 May those seeds transform from within both humanity
 and the whole cosmos
 in the sure expectation
 of a new heaven and a new earth,
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
 reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer
 throughout the earth.
 To you our God, eternally blessed,
 be glory and praise for ever.

Amen
Franciscus



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